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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,188	03/29/2001	John Greeven	10004662-1	1218

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

25

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,188

Applicant(s)

GREEVEN ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-39 and 48-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 22-39 and 48-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: the group in this claim appears to be "a pharmaceutical including at least one of tablets, liquids or gases..." The word "or" appears to make better grammatical form. Also, it appears that a semicolon after the word "patient and before the word "the" in lines 3 of claim 22 would make better grammatical form. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 30 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 4, it appears that the word "the" should be inserted after "in" and before "reservoir". See further similar occurrences in the remaining lines of Claim 30. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear what the network is being coupled to and where the information is coming from, as the group indicated by the preceding words "derived from at least one of..." in the last line indicates a group, but the group includes patient monitors and appliance diagnostic status.

Art Unit: 3653

These two items appear to be unrelated for such a grouping. In addition, it is not certain which appliance is being referred to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

((e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 22-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Liff (6,471,089 B2). Liff discloses the drug dispensing system as follows.

As described in Claims 22, 31, 32 and 36;

1. a controller (314);
2. a reservoir of pharmaceutical (20) *to be dispensed over time to a patient, the pharmaceutical including at least one of tablets, liquids or gases, to be administered to a patient in individual or discrete doses according to a treatment regimen;* (See col. 1, last line and col. 2, lines 1-7 for “dispensing a pharmaceutical over time” and col. 8, lines 16-20 for liquid and other forms of drugs being dispensed. See also col. 2, lines 52-54 which indicate that each

Art Unit: 3653

bottle contains a certain number of doses, which can be construed as including one dose or a several doses.)

3. a drug delivery mechanism (see figures 5-6c);

4. a data network interface coupled to said controller (see figure 13a);

As described in Claims 23, 24, 31-34, 37, 38 and 39;

5. sending messages to and from a health care service provider or drug supplier (see figure 14T, for example, noting payors, doctors, inventory and refills have files for information pertaining thereto),

6. said data message identifying the patient and the identity of the particular drug (see figure 14K, for example);

As described in Claim 25;

7. a human/display interface (see figures 14A-14T);

As described in Claims 26, 27 and 35;

8. effecting payment for the provision of health care service or for a drug (see col. 18, lines 4-17);

As described in Claim 28;

9. the message is transported over the internet (see figure 18);

As described in Claim 29;

10. the message is transported via wireless (see col. 8, line 24;

As described in Claim 30;

11. a pharmaceutical level detector (182), see figure 7c;

Art Unit: 3653

12. the pharmaceutical level detector configured to ascertain at least one of measured weight of pharmaceutical remaining in the reservoir, decremented amount remaining in the reservoir, depth of measurement of pharmaceutical in the reservoir, and static pressure within the reservoir (note that the level detector (182) detects the level of the inventor remaining in a reservoir, noting that "the reservoir" can be reasonably broadly construed as being either a single dispensing device or several dispensing devices, and that such a level of inventory is construed as being a decremented amount, as the bottles of drugs are discrete items);

As described in Claim 48;

13. the pharmaceutical is at least one liquid material; (See col. 8, lines 16-20.)

As described in Claim 50;

15. the controller includes a memory device contained within the appliance (see Claim 30 of Liff et al, which states that a memory is connected to the system computer);

As described in Claim 51;

16. the memory device contains at least one treatment regimen regulating dispensing of individual doses of pharmaceutical to the patient; (see Claim 30 of Liff et al, which further states that the memory stores patient data and drug interaction data. See also col. 18, lines 42-65.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liff et al in view of Monkhouse et al (US 6,514,518 B2). Liff et al discloses the drug dispensing system as described above. Liff et al does not expressly disclose, but Monkhouse discloses the following.

As described in Claim 49;

14. the drug delivery mechanism includes an ink-jet print head (22), (see col. 3, lines 6-57) capable of delivering precise amounts of the liquid (note that the "binder" is a liquid binder—see col. 5, lines 45-49);

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to have coupled the ink jet printer drug dispensing device of Monkhouse et al to the networked system of Liff et al.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide drugs in a 3DP format, which provides a "multiphasic dosage form capable of providing delivery of multiple drugs having different release characteristics." See col. 2, lines 25-29

Art Unit: 3653

and col. 3, lines 5-17 of Monkhouse et al. See also Liff et al, abstract, noting that the system controls dispensing of drugs from dispensers and that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide dispensers attached to Liff's system that would dispense drugs in a standard format adopted by the medical community. 3DP format dosages are just such a format.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Liff et al with Monkhouse et al in order to obtain the invention as described in Claim 49.

Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liff et al in view of O'Brien (US 5,963,136). Liff et al discloses the drug dispensing system as described above. Liff et al does not expressly disclose, but O'Brien discloses the following.

As described in Claim 52;

17. wherein the data network interface (see figure 3, for example, noting that the system of O'Brien is a networked system—see also col. 8, lines 19-24) is adapted to be removably coupled to (note that it would have been expedient for one ordinarily skilled in the art to provide a coupling that is readily removable, such as a plug or computer cable with standard couplings, which are designed to be readily removable) and receive information derived from at least one patient monitoring sensor (see col. 5, lines 42-59, for example describing a temperature sensor),

Art Unit: 3653

such information being an appliance diagnostic status (note col. 5, lines 56-59 describe monitoring an electro cardiogram, which can be construed as an appliance, the status of which would consist of the electronic output of the monitor, since the purpose of the EKG monitor is to provide diagnostic status of the patient, not necessarily the diagnostic status of the monitor itself);

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to have coupled the networked prescription compliance system of O'Brien et al to the system of Liff et al.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide "interactive prescription compliance." See abstract of O'Brien et al. See also Liff et al, abstract, noting that the system controls dispensing of drugs from dispensers in order to fill patient prescriptions and that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a prescription compliance capability to Liff's system, since patient compliance with a prescribed regimen of drugs is considered by the medical community to be a major goal in providing effective patient medical treatment.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Liff et al with O'Brien in order to obtain the invention as described in Claim 49.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 5/15/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Liff et al appears to anticipate Applicant's independent

Art Unit: 3653

claims. Liff, as described above, discloses an intelligent drug dispensing system, construed as intelligent since the system of Liff is computer controlled, comprising drug dispensers, having a reservoir, or inventory, of drugs, such drugs being of a variety of types, the system being network-based. Therefore, as the claims read on the prior art, as described above, the rejection of Claims 22-39 and 48-52 is maintained.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ganan-Calvo is cited as an example of a drug dispensing ink-jet device. Wolf, Thompson, Boyer et al and O'Brien (US 6,150,942) are cited as examples of patient monitoring systems.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will

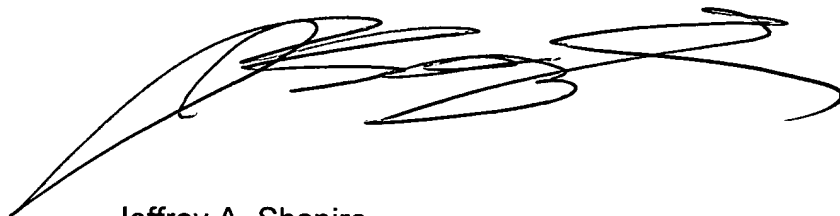
Art Unit: 3653

the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

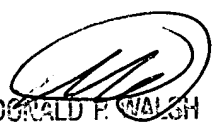
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (703)308-3423. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (703)306-4173. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)306-4195 for regular communications and (703)306-4195 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.



Jeffrey A. Shapiro
Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 3653


DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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June 21, 2003